

ORGANIZATION OF THE CONNECTICUT BOTANICAL SOCIETY.

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CONNECTICUT affords much interesting material relating to the flora of New England, partly because of its situation and the influence favoring the northward and southward distribution of numerous species. Study of these and other features being of permanent interest, it has been considered advisable to organize the botanists of the state into a *Connecticut Botanical Society*, for the collection and diffusion of correct information relating to the flora of the state, and to promote social intercourse among its members.

In fulfillment of this object, a meeting was held in New Haven, January 24th, 1903, when a simple constitution was adopted, and the following officers elected:— President, Professor A. W. Evans; Vice-President, Dr. C. B. Graves; Recording Secretary and Treasurer, Dr. E. H. Eames; Corresponding Secretary, Mr. E. B. Harger, Oxford, Connecticut.

An interesting program followed, the first paper of the day being on "November Wild Flowers," by Mr. E. B. Harger, in which the speaker described the various features pertaining to the flowering of plants at this late season. Lists and summaries for a number of years revealed about 175 species as having been found in flower in his neighborhood, with an average number for each year of about 75 species.

Field meetings being of much interest to the Society, it was decided to hold such a meeting in some little known part of the state to cover two or three days; also one-day meetings in places more readily accessible.

At the afternoon session, Mr. M. L. Fernald spoke most interestingly and at length, "On the Geographic Distribution of certain New England Plants." The known distribution of numerous species and varieties was cited, with special reference to their extra-limital occurrence and isolated stations in Europe, Asia and antipodal Japan. The Ice Age in its relation to the distribution of plants, was reviewed in explaining the otherwise seemingly erratic occurrence of many northern species, as well as some peculiar varietal or specific distinc-

tions resulting from long continued isolation on our own and other continents.

The various species dwelt upon in this fascinating discourse, were abundantly illustrated with selected herbarium specimens, a feature greatly appreciated.

As an instance of the northward extension of range in the present day, Mr. Fernald noted the Fringed Gentian in Central Maine, which he has seen to advance northward some fifty miles, under special conditions.

In conclusion, it was stated that Gaspé Peninsula, Quebec, has in its flora about 75% of circumboreal species, the percentage gradually decreasing to about 50% on Mt. Desert, 21% in Vermont, and 17% in Connecticut and on Long Island.

Mr. W. E. Britton, in a paper immediately following, entitled "Notes on the Flora of the North Haven Plains," elucidated the features of this region and its varying plant inhabitants. This was accompanied by photographs and a catalogue of the plants which had been observed.

Discussion on botanical matters in general was full of interest, and amply illustrated the advantages of such meetings. Moreover, an initial attendance of thirty-one botanists, quickly followed by a number of applications for membership, gives promise of a permanent and active organization.

Accurate and conscientious work upon a catalogue of the flora of the state being one of the most important objects of organization at this time, a committee was appointed by the President, pursuant to an article in the Constitution to collect and publish material for such work.

The committee on the Phaenogamous and Vascular Cryptogamous plants is as follows:—Dr. C. B. Graves, New London; Dr. E. H. Eames, Bridgeport; Mr. C. H. Bissell, Southington; Mr. L. Andrews, Southington; Mr. E. B. Harger, Oxford, and Mr. J. N. Bishop, Plainville. A committee to take charge of work upon the lower Cryptogams will be announced later. It is hoped that anyone who can contribute specimens and information relating to the flora of Connecticut, will communicate with a member of these committees. Aid of this kind will be gratefully received, and it is safe to say that the botanical world at large will, so far as its interest in this work is concerned, equally appreciate all such assistance.

BRIDGEPORT, CONNECTICUT.

ON January 27th, 1903, DR. LORIN LOW DAME died after brief illness at his home in Medford, Massachusetts, in his sixty-fifth year. An experienced and talented educator, Dr. Dame has for many years possessed the respect and esteem of a wide acquaintance. Among botanists he was well known for the admirable Flora of Middlesex County, Massachusetts, of which he was the senior editor, and for two valuable works upon the trees of New England. Dr. Dame was one of the founders of the New England Botanical Club, and through the seven years of its existence has been one of its most devoted members.

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